GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3184
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
ALLEGED SALE OF INDIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE ON INTERNET
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket involved, in the alleged sale of Indian ancient cultural heritage on the internet has been unearthed as reported in the Hindi daily `Dainik Jagran` dated February 5, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD):

(a) EOU-VIII branch of CBI which deals with the cases relating to Antiquities has registered RC SID 2005 E 002 on 2.2.2005 on the allegation of selling of antiquities on the web site www. konark collectable Co. without any valid license. However, the details of cases registered by other agencies may be obtained from NCRB.

(b) RC SID 2005 E 002 has been registered on 2.2.2005 against Vikram Bachhawat, Prop. M/s Konark Coilectables, 20 Lindsay Street, Kolkatta, West Bengal, u/s. 411 IPC sect. 5 & sec. 25 (2) r/w 14 (3) of AAT Act, 1972, on the allegation that he was in illegal possession of antiguities suspected to the stolen and was offering to sell them on the its web site www.konark coilectables. Co. without license.Joint Surprise Check led to the recovery/seizure 22 objects suspected to be Antiquities.

(c) This case is presently under investigation.